UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
30th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 5 November 1991
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. AL-SHAALI (United Arab Emirates)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/46/SR.30
12 November 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

91-57094 5145S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 96: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued) (A/46/3, chap. VI, sect. E), A/46/222, 264, 336, 338, 480 and 511)

1. Mr. AKENDENGUE (Gabon) said that drug abuse and illicit trafficking had increased alarmingly over the past 20 years, and there could be no solution unless all countries cooperated. He therefore welcomed the creation of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP). National and international efforts to eradicate drug abuse and illicit trafficking by an orgy of repressive measures had failed because they had revealed the duplicity of States and the incoherence of action which denied the evidence. Now authorities were seeking other approaches.

2. In pursuance of the recommendations of a national seminar on drugs held at Libreville in June 1989, Gabon had set up, with support from the United Nations and friendly countries, the Office Central de Lutte Anti-Drogue Gabonais (OCLAD), which was responsible for coordinating action by the relevant services. A number of legislative texts had been submitted to the National Assembly for adoption. In December 1990, Gabon had organized the first regional seminar of the 11 member countries of the Economic Community of Central African States, to consider regional cooperation on drug control. Gabon now had a drug addiction laboratory at the Libreville faculty of medicine; in June 1991, equipment to the value of FCFA 50 million had been placed at its disposal.

3. Gabon had also hosted a drug-control training seminar in January 1991 for 100 law enforcement officers and a training seminar for Gabonese magistrates in May 1991. It had taken part in international symposia on the administration of justice, drugs, health and customs and had been visited by a number of UNIDCP expert missions.

4. National measures included lectures in schools to enhance awareness among young people and the establishment of a treatment and rehabilitation centre for drug addicts. Gabon was doing what it could to combat the drug problem but lacked financial, material and human resources, as well as experience. His Government would welcome technical advice and assistance from the United Nations specialized agencies. It was a party to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and had signed the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffick in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. Gabon welcomed the proclamation of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse and urged all countries to take concerted action, without which there could be no lasting solution to the drug problem.

5. Mr. OLEYNYK (Ukraine) said that the report of the Secretary-General on measures taken to implement General Assembly resolution 45/179 on the enhancement of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control (A/46/480)and his report on administrative and financial arrangements regarding the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (A/C.5/46/23) convincingly demonstrated that the decision to create a single drug control programme had been correct. It was unfortunate that there had not been enough time to give the reports in-depth consideration in view of the dates on which they had been issued. His delegation basically supported the structure of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) and its proposed guiding principles. The Programme's success would to a large extent depend on a well-organized structure and on the cooperation of all its components, particularly the Division for Operational Activities.

6. Ukraine also supported the Programme's strategy, goals and basic tasks. Among the main objectives of the Programme, his delegation attached particular importance to its preventive activities. In that connection, the Programme should bear in mind the problems with which the countries of Eastern Europe might be confronted in the very near future. Until recently, the only illegal narcotic drugs in Ukraine had been those produced locally and in other republics of the former Soviet Union. Now, the situation was changing. As his country made the transition to a market economy and expanded its international relations, the first cases of the import of narcotic drugs from abroad were being reported. The Programme should therefore increase its activities in relation to the countries of Eastern Europe, bearing in mind the problems attendant on the region's transition to democracy, particularly in order to anticipate the development of phenomena which could create or aggravate illicit drug production, trafficking and/or abuse.

7. Closer regional cooperation, particularly the regular holding of meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), could help coordinate the anti-drug campaign in the European region. There was now room for the Programme to do a lot of work in the area of consultations and coordination. His delegation supported the approach proposed to the functions and tasks of the Programme's Treaty Implementation and Legal Affairs Division. Strengthening the international legal basis for anti-drug measures and increasing the number of States parties to the conventions in that field were of major importance. Ukraine was a party to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. The 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances would enter into force in his country in the near future. He urged States that had not yet done so to accede to those important international agreements, in order to promote the struggle against illicit drug trafficking on the basis of a unified political and legal approach.

8. The United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse had got off to a good start. UNIDCP would obviously be responsible for the basic task of implementing, coordinating and promoting international and national activities under the Decade. Accordingly, it was essential to provide the Programme with

(Mr. Oleynyk, Ukraine)

the necessary financial and human resources through the regular budget in order to ensure its effective functioning.

9. Mr. LUNA (Peru) said that, while reaffirming his delegation's support for the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and its appreciation of his energy and dedication, he wished to submit his delegation's comments and suggestions.

10. In the first place, it was essential that the Programme be given the best possible place within the Secretariat without however creating any administrative structure or operational mechanism similar to those of the United Nations specialized agencies, since that could give rise to debate and reservations and might upset the consensus that had been so carefully built. At the same time, the Executive Director must be given the necessary authority to administer the Programme's human and financial resources, and a way must be found to enable him to assume his responsibilities in respect of the new Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

11. His delegation was in full agreement with the new structure of the Programme and its four main substantive components: the Treaty Implementation and Legal Affairs Division, the Division for Operational Activities, the Technical Services Division and the Inter-Organization Cooperation Division. It believed that the Division for Operational Activities would be more effective it it could, when required, cooperate in schemes or agreements entered into by countries which recognized that interdependence was the key to the global drug problem. The Inter-Organization Cooperation Division should not only avoid duplication of effort throughout the United Nations system but also strive to be an innovative, creative body enabling the Programme to adapt rapidly to the progress made at intergovernmental level in any region of the world and to give the necessary support. The Executive Director of the Programme should have a guiding role in the Division's future activities, for instance, in the area of promoting alternatives to illicit drug cultivation.

12. It was vital to make the Programme as effective as possible. His delegation was ready to make an active, constructive contribution to that end. However, it must be remembered that the Programme was not a magic formula for solving the global drug problem. While the Programme must perform its mandate, Governments must give it substantive support. The time was ripe for Governments within each region to start working together, either by establishing intergovernmental agreements or by improving existing ones. Only if Governments assumed their responsibilities could the Programme be strengthened and be of value. It would be useful, therefore, if Governments informed the Executive Director of the national measures they intended to take in support of the Programme.

13. At the previous session, he had explained in detail the main principles of the Fujimori Initiative, which was now embodied in the May 1991 Agreement between the United States of America and Peru on drug control and alternative

(Mr. Luna, Peru)

development policy contained in the annex to document A/46/222. In October 1991, an agreement had been signed between the Government of Peru and the Government of the United States to cooperate in the prevention and control of the laundering of drug money. The agreement was based on the principles and commitments of the Cartagena Declaration signed by the Presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, the United States of America and his own country.

14. At the national level, supreme resolution 293-91-PCM of 20 July 1991 had been an important step forward in that it recognized coca growers as valid participants in the dialogue and in the process of crop substitution and alternative development. That decision had given substance to two crucial elements of Peru's campaign against drug trafficking: the real and growing possibility of cooperation and active participation by citizens as a decisive factor in the fight against drug trafficking; and the establishment of a clear and unequivocal distinction between the peasant coca grower and the drug trafficker.

15. As President Fujimori had explained recently, Peru's efforts could succeed only if markets for substitute products were substantially expanded, especially since the concept of alternative development, which included crop substitution, was qualitatively superior because of its multiplier effects for the national economy.

16. Mr. DEKANY (Hungary) said that the current debate was particularly important in that it involved the first overall evaluation of UNIDCP, to the establishment of which his country had contributed actively. The new structure, which integrated the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control with its field offices and also the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board while maintaining the Board's full technical independence, promised to eliminate overlapping and duplication in drug control activities. It also established structural units in such important areas as policy planning and evaluation, information management, external relations and inter-organizational cooperation.

17. Although his delegation was generally satisfied with the work accomplished to date, urgent decisions were needed on such pending issues as the Programme's institutional status and its degree of managerial independence in terms of financing, budget, personnel policy and location. The definition of the Programme's major strategic directions, and the consequent adaptation of its manner of operation, should be addressed in the immediate future. The success of those efforts would depend largely on the ability of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to provide appropriate information and policy guidance while selecting priority themes for the Global Programme of Action, and on its efficiency in monitoring and evaluating UNIDCP activities. Current personnel and budgetary constraints required the enhancement of constructive working relations within UNIDCP and recognition by Member States of the Programme's role as the focal point of all drug-related activities of the United Nations system.

(Mr. Dekany, Hungary)

18. Hungary was not immune to the tendency of drug transit countries to become drug consumer markets and had therefore intensified its drug control efforts. The recently established Interdepartmental Committee for the Fight against Drug Abuse was preparing a framework for a national anti-drug strategy and had introduced a number of new measures to strengthen law enforcement and reduce the demand for illicit drugs, including a separate department within the national police force for drug-related crime, a network of mobile investigation units to control drug trafficking at major border stations and new out-patient clinics and medical facilities to treat drug addicts. The issue of money-laundering was also being addressed, and the relevant provisions of Hungary's criminal code were being brought into line with established European legal standards. Since Hungary had initiated a nationwide data collection system with a view to establishing a national data bank on the problem, he welcomed the development of the International Drug Abuse Assessment System.

19. Recent reports from various sources unanimously confirmed that the political and economic changes in Central and Eastern Europe had resulted in the emergence of the so-called "Balkan Route", used in heroin trafficking. In addition, the tragic developments in Yugoslavia had shifted an unprecedented volume of transport and migration - and illicit drug trafficking - to Hungary's territory. According to Interpol, 65 to 75 per cent of the heroin seized in Europe between 1988 and 1990 had been transported via the Balkan Route. It was therefore essential that the countries concerned should be given the the necessary know-how and technology to combat the problem. New developments, such as the spread and increase of drug-related crime and illicit drug production, must be closely monitored.

20. National efforts, though important, must be supplemented by international action. Hungary was preparing to ratify the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and was already a party to the 1961 and 1971 Conventions and the 1972 Protocol. It also participated in the drug control efforts of such organizations as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the European Community, Interpol and the Customs Cooperation Council. It appreciated United Nations assistance in strengthening its law enforcement activities and had offered to expand its national training centre for trainers of drug-scenting dogs into a regional training centre. In the context of regional cooperation, Hungary participated in the Council of Europe's Pompidou Group and intended to take part in its efforts to facilitate the exchange of drug-related information among major European airports. Hungary was also taking measures to cooperate at the bilateral and subregional levels in the areas of law enforcement, training and information exchange.

21. Mr. COTTON (Australia) said that his Government welcomed the establishment of UNIDCP, which, by providing an efficient and effective structure for substantive programme delivery, would enable the United Nations to play a central role in increased international efforts to combat drug abuse

(Mr. Cotton, Australia)

and illicit production and trafficking. Although further review of some of the Programme's organizational aspects might be necessary in the future, the General Assembly should ensure that immediate attention was focused on the day-to-day management of the Programme and its operational activities.

22. One fundamental issue which would require periodic review was the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the intergovernmental expert body in the drug control field. In view of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/179 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/38 concerning the Commission's policy-making role, he supported the proposal to empower the Commission to provide legislative overview and guidance to all of the Programme's activities.

23. The Programme's Executive Director, who had made commendable progress in implementing General Assembly resolution 45/179, should have maximum latitude in managing personnel and financial resources, subject to the requirements of the United Nations common system. He agreed with the reasoning behind the Programme's structure and looked forward to the deliberations of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concerning the practical functioning of that structure. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report (A/46/511), United Nations activities to combat the drug problem were increasingly wide-ranging, both geographically and in terms of addressing both the demand and the supply aspects of the problem. His Government supported all operational activities of UNIDCP, particularly those in Asia and the Pacific. It welcomed the decision to establish a regional office at Bangkok, as well as other efforts to enhance regional and subregional cooperation and networking.

24. As a major producer of licit opiates, Australia gave high priority to the implementation of an effective control system for the licit narcotic drug trade. Security measures to prevent the diversion of such drugs were an important issue for UNIDCP. Although Australia had not yet ratified the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, it had given temporary effect to certain provisions of the Convention, especially those concerning the prosecution of drug traffickers.

25. The Organization's systemwide approach to international drug control issues would be enhanced by the UNIDCP Executive Director's coordination of relevant United Nations activities and by inter-agency contacts and information exchanges. He agreed that the drug problem should be borne in mind in the formulation and implementation of development assistance and that major multilateral development and financial institutions, as well as all relevant international agencies, should be encouraged to work closely with UNIDCP. The objectives set forth in paragraph 32 of the Secretary-General's report (A/46/480) provided a sound basis for determining future strategies, which would have to respond to changing international circumstances.

(Mr. Cotton, Australia)

26. Since the war against drugs must consist of actions, not words, the resources allocated to the Programme must be commensurate with the priority which the United Nations and individual Governments clearly attached to it. Diversified sources of extrabudgetary funding, high rates of delivery in project implementation and low administrative costs were therefore essential. To help streamline documentation, the Secretary-General should provide a single, consolidated report to the Third Committee well before its debate on the item.

27. The Committee should take a patient and pragmatic approach to reviewing the arrangements for the new Programme, bearing in mind the results of further expert consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Moreover, organizational issues should not prevent the Programme from effectively assisting Governments to the greatest extent possible.

28. Mr. VERMA (India) said that illicit drug traffickers had created their own perverse version of a unified world by subverting individuals, undermining States and laying siege to mankind. International cooperation against the drug menace existed in the form of intergovernmental institutions and a system of international instruments imposing obligations on States. Furthermore, there was growing recognition of the relationship between illicit drugs, criminal activity and terrorism. The reports on the item currently before the Committee had all highlighted the gigantic scale of the problem.

29. His delegation particularly welcomed the decision to enlarge the membership of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to ensure more realistic geographical representation. The creation of UNIDCP was one of the most significant steps taken by the United Nations in that field. Its purpose was to unify drug control structures and to play a central coordinating role within the system in order to reflect the seriousness of the international community's resolve to curb the scourge of drug abuse. His delegation agreed with the Executive Director that there should be a drug-conscious dimension to all international development assistance, on the important condition that there should be no diversion of the resources currently committed to development, and it would support the allocation of additional resources for that purpose.

30. India had become an unwitting victim of the transit traffick in illicit drugs because of its location between the "golden crescent" and the "golden triangle". It called for special attention to be paid to the problems of transit countries. India was also a major traditional cultivator and exporter of opium for medical and scientific purposes. Its system of control of licit cultivation had been used as a model by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). Effective control of the licit production of narcotic drugs was a basic element in efforts to prevent drug abuse, and INCB was strongly opposed to the proliferation of sources of cultivation and manufacture. His delegation noted, however, that there was no specific unit in the UNIDCP structure which was mandated to promote the medical uses of licit supplies and

(Mr. Verma, India)

to study the problems of licit producers. Such activities might be undertaken by the Information Resources Management Service.

31. It would have been useful if the report on administrative and financial arrangements regarding UNIDCP (A/C.5/46/23) had been put before the Committee, in order to permit an integrated analysis. That document also referred to the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in providing legislative overview and guidance to all UNIDCP activities, an aspect which was of direct concern to the Committee.

32. Mr. LEVITSKY (United States of America) said that the fragile process of democratization in many parts of the world was being threatened by drug production, transportation and abuse. Drug empires had emerged that challenged the sovereignty of nations and corrupted the very fabric of political and social life. In response, Governments around the world had joined in an effort to eliminate that menace by pooling their resources and strengthening their resolve to fight back, thereby creating an anti-drug cartel. If democracy and stability were to be preserved, the international community must persevere in its efforts to stop drug trafficking.

33. In recent years, the United Nations had been a catalyst for positive change in international narcotics control. The 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffick in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was a major accomplishement, but all nations must commit themselves to that agreement in order for it to be effective. Those States which had not yet ratified the Convention should consider implementating it provisionally to the extent possible. Two years of discussion on the restructuring of drug control bodies to increase their effectiveness had resulted in the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP), which was ready to embark on the stage where available resources could be translated into concrete, effective programmes. The System-Wide Action Plan was another important tool in that struggle.

34. While the United States remained the single most lucrative market for illicit drugs in the world, producer and transit countries, once considered immune from domestic drug abuse problems were experiencing high addiction rates. A more insidious threat came from the increasing effects of the drug trade on national economies, especially in the developing world. Activities related to trafficking added to inflation and affected the money supply, interest rates and foreign exchange reserves. They removed valuable agricultural lands from food production and created serious environmental problems. The economic distortions caused by traffickers' wealth often gave the latter an unseen veto power over government economic policy.

35. In order to flourish, development and democracy required public order and stability under the rule of law. However, traffickers challenged the principle of national sovereignty itself. Random terrorism had become one more weapon in their arsenal and was often used to turn public opinion against

(Mr. Levitsky, United States)

a Government by demonstrating its inability to protect its citizens. People ceased to rely on the national authorities for some of the basic functions of government, which were replaced by underground institutions. For example, because the court system no longer functioned, an informal justice system might evolve employing violence and vigilantism to obtain justice.

36. Economic development required hard work, the sacrifice of immediate gratification and a willingness to undertake long-term investment. Drugs impeded development by making it difficult to attract labour to the legitimate economy and by replacing the values he had just mentioned with the promise of speculative, short-term, high-turnover investments.

37. His Government had made the narcotics problem a top national priority. All United Nations agencies must continue their commitment as well, particularly those active in developing countries where aspirations for development and democracy could be most imperilled by the drug trade. While demand reduction was important, no effort in that area could be effective without a realistic programme of supply reduction. Under the System-wide Action Plan it might be possible to devise "poppy clauses" committing recipient Governments to the elimination of narcotics crops as part of assistance projects.

38. His delegation was extremely pleased with the progress made by the UNIDCP Executive Director. The Committee must attempt to resolve the remaining structural issues at the current session so that the Programme could move on to substantive drug control issues. The Executive Director must have at his disposal managerial tools commensurate with his responsibilities and should therefore be given broad delegation of authority. UNIDCP should be provided with additional resources from the regular budget, redeployed from other parts of the system. That was a difficult recommendation to make at a time when the United Nations system was striving for zero real growth, but it was a small price to pay when one considered the high cost of the narcotics problem to all areas of United Nations activity.

39. The true cost of narcotic drugs could not be measured in terms of individuals alone; it must be measured in terms of the intangible damage done to development efforts, to the consolidation of fledgling democratic institutions and to the basic right of individuals to live in an orderly society governed by the rule of law.

AGENDA ITEM 94: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(a) QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY (continued) (A/C.3/46/L.18-L.20)

Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.18

40. The CHAIRMAN said that the introduction of draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.18 had been postponed to a subsequent meeting.

Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.19

41. Mrs. ALVAREZ (Dominican Republic), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.19 on behalf of Austria, Malta and the Dominican Republic, said that it complemented draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.5, which Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/10 had recommended to the General Assembly for adoption. That resolution focused mainly on the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, which were the first United Nations instrument explicitly recognizing the rights of older persons.

42. Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.19, on the other hand focused on specific measures to integrate the elderly in development. Since the Committee's decision to biennialize its adoption of resolutions on the question of ageing would not take effect until 1993, the adoption of both resolutions at the current session would be fully consistent with the rationalization of the Committee's work. The impetus which the United Nations Principles for Older Persons promised to restore to the issue of ageing must not be lost.

Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.20

43. Mr. KOTEY (Ghana) introducing draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.20 on behalf of the Group of 77, said that it was designed to focus international attention on the overall deterioration of the world social situation and stressed the need to establish linkages between economic and social development programmes in order to generate growth in the social sector. The draft resolution called for the effective implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future as a means of attaining a more equitable world social situation, and endorsed the request in Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/4 that the Secretary-General reorient the draft framework for the 1993 report on the world social situation so that the draft framework was in consonance with the requests set forth in paragraph 4 of Council resolution 1989/72. The sponsors of the draft resolution were confident that it would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/C.3/46/L.23)

44. Ms. SUNDBOM (Sweden), introducing draft decision A/C.3/46/L.23 on behalf of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, recalled that that Committee had recommended that, given the difficult situation facing the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit, an urgent review of the Unit's staff resources should be carried out in view of the ever-expanding volume of documentation and the constant increase in the number of non-governmental organizations in consultative status. It had also felt that, owing to the financial situation of the Organization, the Unit's staff resources could be increased only through redeployment within the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Under the draft decision, the General Assembly would request the Economic and Social Council to review the conditions necessary for the effective functioning of the Unit. The sponsors hoped that the draft decision would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 95: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (A/C.3/46/L.14-L.17)

45. The CHAIRMAN informed the members of the Committee that draft resolutions A/C.3/46/L.14-L.17 had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.14

46. Ms. MEHTA (India) proposed, on behalf of the sponsors, the insertion of a new paragraph 1 reading:

> "1. Takes note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/46/491);".

Subsequent paragraphs would be renumbered accordingly.

47. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) said that her delegation wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

48. Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.14, as orally revised, was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.15

49. The CHAIRMAN reminded members of the Committee that the representative of Ghana, in introducing draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.15, had amended the text orally by inserting a new paragraph 8.

50. Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.15, as orally amended, was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.16.

51. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that Cuba, India, Japan, Lesotho, Myanmar, Samoa, Senegal and Yugoslavia had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.16.

52. Mrs. ARUNGU-OLENDE (Kenya), Mr. SIDDIG (Sudan), Mr. ZINYUKE (Zimbabwe), Mr. SERGIWA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) and Miss DAJO (Nigeria) said that their delegations wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

53. Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.16 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.17

54. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that, in introducing draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.17, the representative of Canada had amended the text orally by inserting a new eighth preambular paragraph. Algeria, Burkina Faso, Guyana, India, Liechtenstein, Myanmar, Samoa, Senegal and Yugoslavia had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

55. Mr. KASOULIDES (Cyprus), Miss DAJO (Nigeria), Mrs. ALVAREZ (Dominican Republic), Mr. QUATTARA (Mali), Mr. SERGIWA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) and Mr. YOSSIFOV (Bulgaria) said that their delegations wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

56. Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.17, as orally amended, was adopted.

57. Mr. RAVEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation welcomed the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.17. The goal of appointing more women to top Secretariat posts should be achieved through equality of opportunity for all candidates in the selection process and through increased awareness, among those responsible for making appointments, of the subtle and sometimes less than subtle forms of prejudice against women.

58. The enhancement of women's job opportunities at every level through increased management development and training opportunities was equally important in improving the status of women in the Secretariat. A larger and better qualified pool of female middle management would supply more female candidates for senior appointments.

59. Other positive measures that could be taken immediately included active recruitment of female applicants, information and advice on job opportunities and applications from the Secretariat's Focal Point for Women and requests to Member States for nominations of qualified female candidates for specific posts. Such measures, applied in accordance with the principle of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, were the best means of achieving the goals mentioned in the draft resolution.

60. The CHAIRMAN said that he wished to propose a draft decision under agenda item 95 for adoption by the Committee. The draft decision would read as follows:

"The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (A/46/38);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/46/462)."

61. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft decision.

62. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
31st meeting
held on
Tuesday, 5 November 1991
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 31st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. AL-SHAALI (United Arab Emirates)

later: Mr. ALFARO-PINEDA (El Salvador)

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AGENDA ITEM 96: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued)

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91-57100 5273S (E)

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/46/SR.31
20 November 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.06 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 96: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued) (A/46/3 (chap. VI, sect. E), A/46/222, 264, 336, 338, 480, 511)

1. Mr. FISSENKO (Belarus) reviewed the legal instruments adopted by the international community under United Nations auspices to fight illicit drug use, to which Belarus attached great importance. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/179. Its main activities included treaty implementation and legal services, operational activities, technical services, and interorganizational cooperation. UNIDCP was already fulfilling its primary role as coordinating agency for all United Nations drug-control activities. Among its substantive activities were the strengthening of the licit drug-control system and the analysis of annual reports submitted by Governments on the functioning of drug-control treaties. UNIDCP would compile data on the nature, extent and modalities of drug abuse, formulate overall plans for drug-control activities, and assist regional or subregional drug abuse control initiatives and plans of action.

2. UNIDCP had a sound financial base, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/480), with an estimated budget for 1991 of more than $71 million. Although that in itself was positive, his delegation believed that the differential between the amount of resources allocated to UNIDCP and those available to other United Nations agencies for crime prevention and control was excessive. A ministerial conference on that issue would soon be held in Paris, and he hoped that the conference could adopt specific recommendations for later consideration by the Commission.

3. His delegation supported the measures adopted under the System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control. During the current year, Belarus had ratified the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and was formulating a broad crime-control programme with a section on drug abuse. New laws would stress international conventions against narcotic drugs, impose heavier sentences on narcotics traffickers and give more emphasis to drug-abuse prevention.

4. Control of drug abuse and illicit traffic was, without doubt, a highly complex task. Concerted action must be taken to confront the problem on the national, regional and international levels. However, such action should respect the principles of the Charter and international law. Positive changes in international relations were creating a favourable climate for strengthening international cooperation with a view to eliminating that social scourge. He hoped that the current debate and the decisions adopted would assist the United Nations in more effectively fulfilling its mandate in the fight against narcotic drugs.

5. Mr. ORDZHONIKIDZE (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that UNIDCP should become the catalyst for international cooperation in the fight against narcotic drugs. Its tasks would be important and complex, and it must endeavour to find its proper place in relation to other international drug abuse control institutes and programmes. There was clearly a link between illicit narcotic use and trafficking and other transnational crimes, such as terrorism and illicit arms trafficking; therefore, UNIDCP coordination with other activities of the United Nations system to combat terrorism and crime was very important.

6. During its resumed first regular session of 1991, the Economic and Social Council had reviewed the functioning of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and had adopted several resolutions which, in general, the USSR had supported. The Commission should conduct an integral and effective strategy against drug abuse, including issues such as illicit trafficking and money-laundering, and should also provide policy guidance to UNIDCP. Moreover, annual sessions seemed desirable, but he did not favour the proposal to establish a committee to perform certain functions to assist it in dealing with its agenda and to facilitate its work. It was difficult to imagine that such a committee could improve the Commission's efficiency, since its functioning would be costly and some duplication of work would be unavoidable.

7. With regard to Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/39, paragraph 1 (f), according to which the Commission would review and adapt the modalities for the functioning of that Committee in the light of experience, his delegation considered that the Committee should establish the practice of holding its meetings immediately before the Commission session, so that its meetings would constitute the preparatory work for the Commission. At the latest session of the Economic and Social Council, his Government had supported the recommendation for enlarging the Commission's membership from 40 to 53. His delegation hoped that the increase would not only provide more equitable geographical distribution but also improve efficiency.

8. Regarding regional and international cooperation against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, his delegation believed that, rather than worrying about violations of the Charter and international law in the fight against narcotic drugs, the primary concern should be the health and life of the people.

9. Until recently, the problem of illicit drug use had not been very serious in the USSR. However, in view of the changes taking place in the country and, in particular, the forthcoming convertibility of the rouble and the elimination of internal and external travel restrictions, the authorities were aware of the need to strengthen domestic drug abuse control mechanisms. Narcotics trafficking could reach alarming proportions in the USSR, where raw materials were available for narcotics production. The State crime-control programme for 1991-1995 should receive full support. It included a section on illicit narcotics trafficking whose major objectives were to reduce demand for narcotics, improve coordination of all aspects of the fight against narcotic drugs and promote utilization of all technical and scientific means available in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

(Mr. Ordzhonikidze, USSR)

10. As concerned international cooperation, he noted that the first meeting of European narcotics control services had been held under United Nations auspices in Moscow in 1990. At that meeting, in which representatives of 29 European countries and the United States and Canada as well as of international organizations had taken part, the conclusion had been reached that one of the most frequently used routes for the movement of narcotics was through Eastern Europe and the USSR. The following priorities for international cooperation had been established at the meeting: the establishment of a database for all of Europe; the strengthening of the relations between the police and customs authorities, and the confiscation of the profits derived from the illicit drug trade. As regarded bilateral cooperation, a large number of European countries had reached intergovernmental agreements with the USSR, thus establishing the legal bases for joint action.

11. Mr. KHOSHROO (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the most vital factor in dealing with the drug problem was to realize the necessity of eliminating the production, trafficking in and consumption of illicit drugs by members of the international community. Such a goal could only be achieved through constant international cooperation. For its part, Iran had given top priority to the struggle against the drug phenomenon, particularly in the area of demand reduction. The campaign was based on two focal points: (a) preventive measures in the cultural, social and legal fields and (b) a concerted struggle against drug traffickers.

12. With respect to preventive measures, Iran had increased the number of educational centres, universities, libraries and publications dealing with the drug crisis. Furthermore, the current 17 rehabilitation centres - more were being constructed - treated more than 40,000 addicts annually and a data bank on addicts had been established to provide information on identification, prevention and treatment of addiction.

13. National legislation had been adopted to complement and reinforce the efforts to combat drug trafficking. Under that legislation, the following were regarded as offences: poppy cultivation; the import, export, storing, trafficking, possession and supply of drugs and the manufacture of drug paraphernalia and instruments. The substantive provisions of the law provided for the confiscation of all properties acquired from drug smuggling by traffickers, with the exception of what was needed for family support. As a result of those measures, poppy cultivation and the production of other drug-related products had been eliminated in Iran. The Iranian Parliament was now considering the possibility of ratifying the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, which had already been approved by the Council of Ministers.

14. Iran had embarked on a very costly campaign for the eradication of drug trafficking. The activities undertaken included: establishing operational and tactical headquarters in the border zones; establishing outposts to

(Mr. Khoshroo, Islamic Republic of Iran)

blockade the borderlines, straits and defiles; conducting search operations of armed caravans of smugglers, and establishing a databank and compiling statistics on traffickers and trafficking networks. Some of the results of the measures taken by Iran appeared in document E/C.7/1991/20.

15. Iran had continued to pursue its international anti-drug activities within the framework of close cooperation with the international organizations and regular participation in international and regional meetings. The willingness of his country to join the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to hold the 28th meeting of the Subcommission on Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs in Teheran during the current month further indicated its determination to cooperate with international efforts. In addition, bilateral agreements and negotiations between Iran and Pakistan, Turkey, Malaysia, the USSR and Afghanistan were paving the way for the signature of a multilateral regional agreement.

16. At the invitation of the Iranian Government, delegations from the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) had visited Iran in September 1990 and July 1991. The conclusion they had drawn from those missions was that Iran's drug combat mechanism was well organized in all its dimensions. In its report, the INCB delegation had praised the role the Iranian Government had played in the fight against narcotic drugs in the region and at the international level (E/INCB/1990/CRP.18/Rev.1) and had suggested that assistance to Iran would help to improve the situation not only in its territory but in other countries. For its part, the UNIDCP mission had visited both the capital and the border areas to observe the measures taken by disciplinary forces. Iranian officials had taken the opportunity to suggest the establishment of a joint committee including representatives of Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan and the United Nations with a specific agenda focused on prevention of cultivation of drugs and the destruction of production centres.

17. Although his Government had allocated enormous resources to block the flow of drugs into the country, success in that area required greater financial and technical assistance. He expressed the hope of witnessing an era in which the vicious phenomenon of narcotic drugs would be completely eliminated so that the potential of the world community could be utilized for further growth and development in a safe and secure environment.

18. Mr. ARRIA (Venezuela) recalled that as early as 1929, in the League of Nations, his country's delegation had warned against the danger represented by drug abuse and illicit trafficking. His country's present situation with respect to the problem was very difficult, because it had been transformed into a base for financial recycling and the storage of drugs, particularly cocaine, in transit towards the centres of consumption. The movement of traffickers from other neighbouring countries, particularly Colombia, was an aggravating factor. In reality, however, Venezuela, like other countries, was a victim of the absence of a concerted global strategy against drugs, a responsibility which had been assigned to UNIDCP almost a year ago. By the

(Mr. Arria, Venezuela)

nature of the phenomenon, the dispersion of effort continued to be the greatest ally of the drug traffickers.

19. Referring to a report prepared by the United States Association for the United Nations which contained the results of public discussions held throughout the country in order to work out a more effective international drug policy, he noted that the report concluded that the multilateral framework provided by the United Nations was the most appropriate one to combat that human tragedy. That example should be followed, as public participation was an essential element in the formulation of realistic policies and in order to ensure general support for the adoption of the measures and decisions required by the struggle against narcotic drugs.

20. His delegation supported the establishment of UNIDCP and thanked the Secretary-General for the report contained in document A/46/480. The fight against drug trafficking required a common effort and resources that were beyond the means of the countries most affected. For that reason, UNIDCP's new Fund, which should give priority aid to the countries where the situation was most serious, was important. The principle of shared responsibility should be the central element in cooperation. From that point of view, the solidarity the Italian Government had shown was commendable and its example should be followed by other rich countries.

21. The resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, particularly concerning the Commission mandate, were also important.

22. At the national level, Venezuela had taken many measures, which had ultimately, proved inadequate because they had been taken individually, in isolation from other action. At the international level, Venezuela had ratified the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which had been the result of a Venezuelan initiative. The country was currently a party to all the multilateral instruments regulating narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

23. The report of the United Nations Association of the United States, mentioned earlier, indicated that $200 million were needed annually to combat drugs effectively, meaning that voluntary contributions must be sought from rich countries. The time had come for those countries to move on from words to practical multilateral action, so that the Fund could take a rational approach to the difficult task that had been assigned to it.

24. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria) said that his country was convinced that the fight against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking should be considered an integral part of common efforts to ensure development, human dignity and political and social stability at the national, regional and global levels. In that connection, it took a positive view of the adoption of such instruments as the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in

(Mr. Raichev, Bulgaria)

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, which created a legal, political and administrative framework for enhanced international cooperation in the sphere of drug control.

25. It was now time to translate agreed policy into action. His delegation had every confidence in the work of UNIDCP and supported the structures proposed for it, which took into consideration the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The financial resources provided for overall United Nations activities in that field must be commensurate with the high priority attached to them. Bulgaria shared the view that the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the main policy-making body must be increased.

26. His delegation also supported the action proposed by the Commission as a follow-up to the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Expert Group to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Traffic in Drugs, and considered coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and the task force on money laundering established by the Group of Seven to be essential.

27. His Government attached particular importance to regional cooperation in drug control. It welcomed the progress made in the development of a computerized information network for the Balkan region and the consideration of other regional projects within the Programme.

28. Special attention should be given to the countries of Europe which were making the transition to democracy and a market economy; their social and economic crisis was now compounded by the threat of a further aggravation of drug-related problems, especially since those countries lay close to drug-producing areas and were being used for transit along the so-called Balkan Route.

29. In conclusion, his Government was grateful to the Council of Europe for having convened the first pan-European conference on cooperation on problems of drug abuse, held at Oslo in May 1991, and had taken the necessary steps for ratification of the 1988 Convention, to which it would accede in due course.

30. Mr. Alfaro-Pineda (El Salvador) took the Chair.

31. Mr. ABDELHAMID (Algeria) said that 1991 marked the launching of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse and the twentieth anniversary of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Those landmarks emphasized the seriousness of the problem, which remained as acute as ever since the production, consumption, trading and trafficking of narcotic drugs were spiralling out of control. Faced with that situation, the international community must mobilize to take more effective and decisive action. In view of its complexity and universality, the United Nations must assume a large

(Mr. Abdelhamid, Algeria)

share of the responsibility for that effort. At the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which Algeria had signed, had entered into force and the Assembly had adopted five resolutions on the basis of the Third Committee's report. However, the reports of the Secretary-General (A/46/338, A/46/480 and A/46/511) on that subject showed that much remained to be done in the area of the launching and execution of technical cooperation projects. Further financial resources must be mobilized to increase the capacity of UNIDCP to respond to States' legitimate concerns, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/179.

32. The drug problem was a source of concern to Algeria since it posed a particular threat to young people. The authorities had adopted preventive measures, in the form of public awareness campaigns, deterrent measures, focused primarily on the country's borders, since Algeria was a transit country, and repressive measures, established by law, which severely punished traffickers.

33. Much to its regret, Algeria was becoming a transit zone between producer and consumer countries. It therefore insisted that the interests of transit countries should be given prominence in the programmes of drug-control bodies and UNIDCP. Those countries deserved proper support and technical cooperation programmes to develop and strengthen the infrastructures needed to eradicate the drug scourge.

34. On the basis of respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, his country supported efforts to intensify international cooperation and called for greater dynamism in the implementation of technical cooperation projects such as those included in the Global Programme of Action.

35. Mr. HUSSAIN (Pakistan) said that his delegation had always taken the view that no strategy or programme of action to combat the drug problem would succeed unless it addressed the problem in all its manifestations. It was impossible to curtail supply as long as a demand for drugs existed. His delegation was happy to see that the necessary attention had been paid in recent years to demand reduction in countries where drug abuse was a major problem. In any case, the distinction between producer and consumer countries was becoming increasingly blurred. A concerted global effort must be made to reduce supply and demand at the international, regional and national levels. In that context, Pakistan had welcomed the convening of the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat, held in London in 1990.

36. His delegation agreed that curtailing the cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotics was a prerequisite for the elimination of the drug problem. However, in conjunction with such steps, the growers must be offered alternative economic opportunities, such as marketing arrangements and fair prices for the substitute crops or products. Pakistan supported the

(Mr. Hussain, Pakistan)

recommendations of the Intergovernmental Expert Group to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Traffick in Drugs, especially the second, which called for a study to determine the effectiveness of economic policies employed against illicit crop production and the extent to which crop substitution programmes could be improved. The study should, however, also consider the possibility of improving the marketability of the substitute products, and possible alternate employment in the affected regions.

37. Narcotics production, processing, trafficking and abuse posed a challenge of immense proportions to Pakistan. The Government thus attached a very high priority to eradicating the scourge of drugs. The corresponding administrative machinery had been considerably strengthened and its Narcotics Control Division was now headed by a Federal Minister. A new anti-narcotics task force had also been established to investigate charges against the drug barons and prosecute them. As a result of the strict law enforcement measures, drug seizures had increased during the period 1988-1990.

38. The processing of opium to manufacture heroin was done through a chemical process utilizing chemicals which were invariably not locally produced in developing countries. It was therefore important for the producer countries to impose strict controls on the export of such chemicals to curtail processing in drug laboratories in the supplier States. Pakistan had placed acetic anhydride, a chemical required to convert opium into heroin, on the restricted list for imports and was also considering including all the substances referred to in tables I and II of the 1988 Convention, which Pakistan had signed in 1989 and had just ratified.

39. His Government was fully aware of the plight of drug addicts. It had accordingly established detoxification centres under a project of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. There were currently 30 such centres in operation, where about 100,000 addicts had been cured. Over 1,200 medical practitioners had also been trained in the treatment of addicts and about 3,500 social workers in preparing society for intervention against drug abuse.

40. Prevention through education had become the newest trend, since law enforcement had not had tangible results and detoxification and rehabilitation efforts were expensive and not always effective. Pakistan had with foreign assistance planned a programme to educate people about the deleterious effects of drug abuse, the aim of which was to elicit community involvement and cooperation in the war against drugs.

41. In response to the call for regional cooperation in the System-wide Action Plan adopted at the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, Pakistan had entered into a protocol with the Islamic Republic of Iran to control production and transboundary movement of narcotic drugs. It was cooperating fully with the members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and had recently ratified the SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

(Mr. Hussain, Pakistan)

42. The international community should consider giving economic assistance to farmers in the areas concerned in order to facilitate crop substitution; establishing industrial units to generate income and employment opportunities; providing assistance to strengthen enforcement agencies in terms of training, mobility, equipment and operational costs; and providing assistance in programmes for the reduction of the demand for narcotics, the treatment of addicts and other preventive measures.

43. Ms. SEMAFUMU (Uganda) observed that the drug problem had devastating political, economic and social consequences and had to be combated by concerted efforts at all levels dealing with it at the stages of production, distribution and consumption. In recent years, the importance of adopting a comprehensive, multidisciplinary and balanced approach to that pervasive scourge had gained increasing recognition, and it was to be hoped that such recognition would be reflected in the priorities and practical measures adopted by the United Nations.

44. The prevailing international economic order, characterized by the predominance of free market forces, was fertile ground for drug traffickers, because crops of coca, opium poppy and cannabis could be cultivated in the same soil and climate as traditional commodities like coffee, tea and cocoa, which fetched less on the international market. With the recent slump in coffee prices, the temptation for poverty-stricken farmers to turn from coffee to coca cultivation became overwhelming. It was therefore clear that narcotic drugs was one area where free market forces must not be allowed to operate.

45. The stringent adjustment measures prescribed as a solution to the economic crisis had substantially reduced the level of resources available to law enforcement institutions in many developing countries. Her delegation was convinced that any lasting solution to the problem of illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse must encompass various aspects, including enhanced cooperation for development, debt relief, and the assurance of markets and reasonable prices for legal export commodities.

46. Although her delegation was aware that the drug problem was currently acute in the Americas and Asia and that in geographical terms those two regions must receive the largest share of resources allocated for the fight against narcotic drugs, it did not believe that the African continent should be neglected. Many African countries, including Uganda, were already transit points for drug traffickers. The combination of climatic conditions, the current economic difficulties in Africa and the pressures on drug lords in the Americas and Asia could induce them to focus their attention on Africa as a new site for operations. Therefore, although she welcomed the higher UNIDCP budget for operational activities in Africa, she hoped that greater attention would be paid to the region, without diverting resources from the Americas and Asia.

47. Her delegation welcomed the creation of UNIDCP but would have preferred to see it established as the result of a comprehensive rather than piecemeal

(Ms. Semafumu, Uganda)

reform of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. Her delegation wished to emphasize the need for transparency in that process, and would appreciate clarification on the manner in which the Committee and the Economic and Social Council would carry out their oversight responsibilities with regard to the proposed structure.

48. Greater attention needed to be paid to the eradication of demand, to prevention, money laundering and the development of endogenous capacities. The latter should rank high among the UNIDCP priorities in developing countries. The number of training programmes for law enforcement agencies, customs officials and medical personnel should be increased, and more emphasis should be placed on long-term fellowships to allow for in-depth study of the problems at hand. Support for practical measures, like the establishment of national drug testing laboratories, should be intensified.

49. In addition, efforts at enhancing capacity building at the subregional levels should be promoted through greater coordination and cooperation with the regional organizations. UNDCP should work closely with the regional commissions and the regional institutes for crime prevention and criminal justice. In that regard, the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders offered a useful framework for programmes on education and mobilization.

50. The strategy and objectives of UNDCP (A/46/480, para. 32) paid little attention to the prevention or discouragement of drug-related money laundering. As long as traffic in narcotics remained a lucrative business, any steps towards its elimination would be similar to a battle concentrated away from the front line. Furthermore, a greater percentage of the monies confiscated needed to be put back into the fight against drugs, within the framework of the United Nations. That would help to alleviate the financial constraints faced by UNDCP, without reallocation from other areas of operation which already had inadequate resources.

51. Her delegation regretted that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its thirty-fourth session, had been unable to undertake a thorough and comprehensive review of the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Expert Group to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Traffic in Drugs. It considered that the recommendation for the convening of an expert group to define minimal standards of professional conduct in financial and related professional activities to prevent drug-related money laundering merited serious consideration. She hoped that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs would accord those and other recommendations the attention which they merited at its thirty-fifth session.

52. Concrete steps, such as the establishment of UNDCP, were a clear illustration of how effective the combination of political will, clear objectives and the availability of financial resources could be in the quest for solutions.

53. Mrs. CANEDO PATIÑO (Bolivia) said that the magnitude and increasing gravity of the problem of traffic in narcotics required the adoption of urgent initiatives for the international community to be able to combat it effectively. However, the efforts being made by the coca-leaf producing countries to reduce production and eliminate fresh planting would not be enough unless the centres of consumption, in turn, tried to control effectively the export trade in the chemical products that made it possible to turn the natural product into an alkaloid. It was therefore absolutely necessary to apply strict control and inspection programmes to such substances. For that reason, Bolivia had expressed in all forums its firm commitment to cooperating fully in the matter within the framework of respect for the sovereignty of States, non-interference in the affairs of State and non-use of force.

54. In order to carry out that commitment, it was necessary to strengthen international cooperation, whether bilateral or multilateral and to try to sensitize those participating in such cooperation, so that it would not imply the imposition of conditions and would be used as a complement to the efforts being made by the countries of the area in their struggle against illicit traffic in cocaine and drug dependency. Bolivia considered it essential to achieve a quantitive increase in international economic and technical cooperation in support of crop substitution programmes through integrated rural development programmes. The production of and the demand for illicit drugs were a dynamic phenomenon, and she therefore made an urgent appeal to countries and international organizations to cooperate effectively and promptly, in order that the planned programmes could be realized in a timely fashion.

55. Bolivia had maintained that in order to resolve that problem, it was necessary to tackle the causes as well as the effects, and one way to do that was alternative development. It was necessary to replace the illegal economy, sustained by the illicit traffic in drugs by a legitimate economy. Accordingly, she urged the developed countries to open their markets to the products which might be exported by the developing countries and which originated, precisely, in alternative development programmes. The marketing of those products would constitute a strategic incentive for the development of the agro-industry of the countries that had taken the decision to turn the old crops into new sources of licit production.

56. Her delegation, while appreciating the measures adopted to implement General Assembly resolution 45/179 on the enhancement of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control, wished to stress the need for the establishment of stricter controls at embarkation, transit and reception points on the international routes used by drug traffickers and that the transit of chemical products and precursors should be adequately controlled. That would facilitate an exchange of information that would make it possible effectively to determine the origin and destination of the same. To that end, the National Council on the Integral Prevention of Drug Abuse and Treatment, Rehabilitation and Social Resettlement (CONAPRE) had been established in

(Mrs. Canedo Patiño, Bolivia)

Bolivia, and projects were being prepared to expand and remodel treatment centres in the cities of La Paz and Tarija. Programmes were also under way for training in drug abuse prevention techniques and the preparation of educational materials.

57. One of Bolivia's most notable successes in the struggle against drug traffic had been the incineration of more than 27 tons of cocaine hydrochloride between August 1990 and June 1991 and the seizure and incineration of 127 tons of precursors, as well as the destruction of 485 laboratories. The Government had also decided that drug traffickers who surrendered voluntarily, would be subjected to the jurisdiction and punishment of Bolivian justice.

58. Her delegation took note with satisfaction of the work done by the International Narcotics Control Board and supported the appeal to the international community to provide the necessary means through the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary contributions. It also welcomed the enhancement of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control. It expressed satisfaction at the results of the Political Declaration and the Comprehensive Multilateral Outline of Future Activities of the Global Programme of Action and the London Declaration but considered that the disimbursement of adequate inputs on the international scale was called for to that end.

59. To the prejudice caused Bolivia by the frequent association of its name with drug traffic was added the risk presented by the irresponsible dumping of chemical waste in lakes and rivers. It was therefore following with great interest the commitment to the struggle to reduce and eradicate the surplus area planted with coca crops. It also maintained active participation in various forums, promoted the importance of establishing a network of bilateral and multilateral treaties on reciprocal assistance and attended meetings, conferences and seminars, with a view to uniting efforts to achieve adequate legislation that could neutralize the effects of that problem. In October 1991, Bolivia had hosted the fourth meeting of heads of national organizations responsible for combating the illicit traffic in drugs.

60. Mr. CORNEJO (Chile) said that the problem of drug abuse had reached alarming proportions in Chile, as in many other countries in the world. The Chilean Government was applying a policy of consumer prevention, which emphasized active community participation. In that context, it was expanding networks of community and family mental health centres and training programmes for school teachers, professors and other kinds of community leaders. Although no cocaine was produced in Chile, owing to its geographical characteristics and the limitations imposed by the scarcity of human and technological resources, in recent times it had been turning into a transit territory on the way to major consumer countries.

(Mr. Cornejo, Chile)

61. In order to confront the problem of increased transit and drug consumption in the national territory, the Chilean Government had adopted various measures. First, it had strengthened systems of control of substances intended for the production of narcotics and systems for the suppression of illicit traffic. Secondly, it had improved coordination between the State organs concerned with the question. Thirdly, an attempt had been made to strengthen links of international cooperation, particularly with other national and international police organizations. It should be pointed out in that regard that, since 1990, bilateral cooperation agreements had been concluded with eight Latin American countries and the conclusion of four more agreements was projected.

62. In addition, a draft law had been submitted to the National Congress that would bring national legal provisions into line with the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The draft law envisaged, inter alia, the regulation and punishment of the offence of money-laundering, and the seizure of accumulated profits derived from illicit drug trafficking. It also stipulated the passage of legal provisions for the punishment of the diversion of precursor chemicals and chemical products essential for the illicit production of narcotic drugs; the revision of existing norms on the elimination of illicit crops; the establishment of legal instruments providing for the use of new police investigation techniques; and, lastly, the revision of the legal provisions regarding release on bail in the case of offences involving illicit drug trafficking. A National Drug Control Council had also been established, and the Council had drafted a National Plan for Drug Safeguards and Drug Control, based on the UNIDCP Masterplan guidelines for drug control programmes. The National Plan would be promulgated by the President of the Republic at the end of the current year.

63. Mr. ISSA (Egypt) said that the danger constituted by drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking and their destructive effects required, as the Secretary-General had indicated in his report on the work of the Organization (A/46/1), a response at the world-wide level. The relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly during the forty-fifth session and those of the Economic and Social Council were a clear indication that the international community was fully aware of the magnitude of the problem. On the other hand, the simple adoption of resolutions meant little if their provisions were not put into practice.

64. The establishment of UNIDCP and the appointment of its Executive Director in March 1991 were praiseworthy practical steps. The global nature of the budget, as indicated in document A/46/480 and as explained by the Executive Director of UNIDCP in his opening statement, required participation by all countries, from both North and South, to facilitate programme and policy execution and better coordination of the work involved.

(Mr. Issa, Egypt)

65. The functions assigned to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as a result of a combination of different views should result in effective measures to combat the drug threat. Egypt endorsed the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Expert Group. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs should study those recommendations at its next session and immediately begin its work.

66. His delegation shared the concern expressed by others and by the Executive Director of UNIDCP about the need for more financial resources to deal with the drug problem. The United Nations must fulfil its mandate under the Charter. In order to do so, all States must make their contribution to the bodies involved in order to facilitate the financing of the fight against drugs, provided that doing so would not affect resources needed for development activities or would not constitute an encouragement of intervention in the internal affairs of States.

67. The importance of adopting effective preventive measures to prevent the scourge from spreading could not be over-emphasized . That applied particularly to African countries, whose participation in United Nations drug control programmes must be increased. Indeed, the economic deterioration of the African continent could make it an easy prey for drug abuse and illicit narcotics trafficking.

68. His delegation thanked the United Nations for its assistance in Egypt's drug control programme, especially with regard to laboratory work, training programmes and the elaboration of drug legislation. Also noteworthy was the role played by the World Health Organization (WHO) in the rehabilitation of drug addicts. In that connection, it would be useful if the Department of Public Information translated into Arabic the pamphlets dealing with the scope of the drug problem, so that Arabs could benefit from those publications.

69. Lastly, the Egyptian Government was currently studying the national drug legislation with a view to bringing it into line with United Nations treaties and conventions.

70. Mr. OFFOR (Nigeria) said that his delegation welcomed the restructuring of the three drug control units into a single integrated Programme, UNIDCP, as provided by General Assembly resolution 45/179. It was to be expected that the Programme would enjoy adequate financial resources in order to achieve all the objectives outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the matter (A/46/480).

71. As time progressed, UNIDCP would be better equipped to complement the efforts of States in their fight against drug abuse. It was gratifying to note that it had plans to provide technical cooperation and assistance through training to Governments to help them set up adequate drug control structures and elaborate common methodologies and approaches. States themselves could also help UNIDCP in its daunting task by sharing their experiences and human resources with other States.

(Mr. Offor, Nigeria)

72. The problem of production and consumption of illicit drugs could be reduced to a common equation: without ready markets there could be no producers, and vice-versa. It should not be forgotten that the consequences of drug abuse transcended mental imbalance, because other more grotesque physical manifestations had also been traced to it.

73. Like other countries, Nigeria had enacted the relevant laws imposing dissuasive penalties for drug offences. The establishment in 1990 of its National Drug Law Enforcement Agency was a significant step, in keeping with the Global Programme of Action adopted at the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly. At the regional level, Nigeria had entered into mutual assistance agreements on law enforcement matters with several countries. It had also ratified the three United Nations Conventions on drugs.

74. In conclusion, Nigeria agreed that the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse should be geared towards sustaining international, regional and national efforts in the fight against drug abuse. It believed that a specific time-frame should be set within which to achieve the objectives.

75. Mr. NIETO (Argentina) expressed satisfaction at the documentation submitted by the Secretariat, particularly documents A/46/480 and A/46/23. However, since he had not had time to study the documents in depth, he would make only preliminary remarks.

76. The establishment of UNIDCP pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/179 was now complete, and that generated great expectations. Argentina believed that UNIDCP should be governed by the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session, and that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should be the body that reviewed the implementation of norms and gave policy guidance to UNIDCP and monitored its activities. The Economic and Social Council had recently agreed to increase the membership of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, thus improving its distribution by region.

77. His delegation expressed support for the Executive Director of UNIDCP in his efforts to diversify the sources of funds for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. A solid financial basis was an absolute prerequisite for the fulfilment of all the functions assigned to UNIDCP.

78. The multifaceted problem created by illicit drug trafficking was a challenge to the international community in general. It was not the province of a single country or group of countries. Without adequate cooperation, States taken individually lacked the capacity to take on the struggle. Through innovative forms of international cooperation, including assistance to the transit countries, the existing control and suppression mechanisms could be strengthened.

(Mr. Nieto, Argentina)

79. In the long run, only balanced action directed towards each one of the links of the drug chain could produce results. The Organization possessed some of the instruments needed for the task. His delegation was confident that, in the light of how it operated and what results it obtained in practice, the structure of UNIDCP could be maintained as such in the future or adjusted as needed for optimum use of the resources allocated to it.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.